

# CHILD FATALITY REVIEW REPORT LA PAZ AND YUMA COUNTIES

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WHO DIED IN 2005

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either La Paz or Yuma Counties at the time of their deaths. During 2005, there were a combined total of 30 fatalities among children birth through 17 years of age in La Paz (five deaths) and Yuma (25 deaths) Counties. Males were disproportionately represented among childhood deaths with 60 percent of the deaths overall. Figure 1 shows the number of boys and girls who died in each age group.

**Figure 1. Age Group and Gender for all Deaths  
Birth through 17 Years, La Paz & Yuma Counties, 2005**

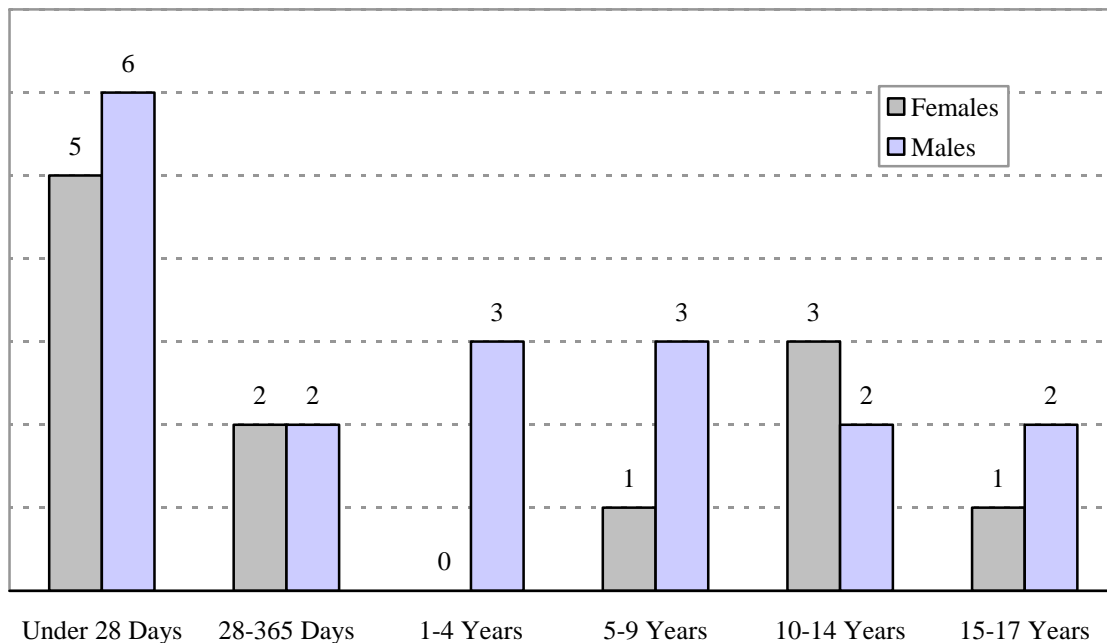
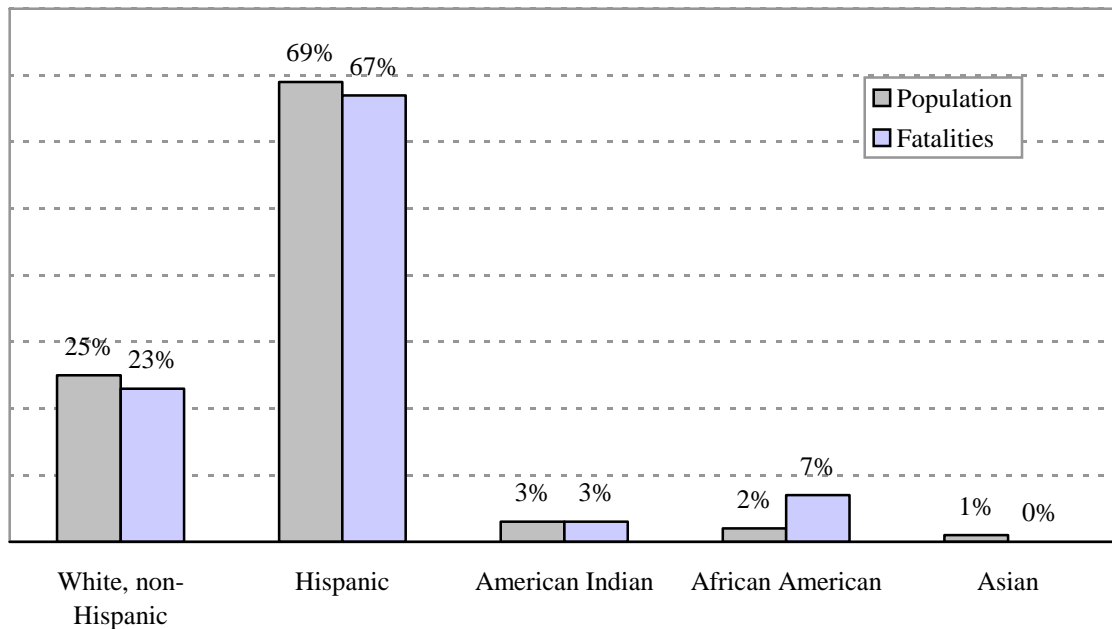


Figure 2 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the children who resided in La Paz and Yuma Counties compared to fatalities of children who resided in La Paz and Yuma Counties during 2005. African American children were over-represented among childhood fatalities in La Paz and Yuma Counties, accounting for seven percent of the deaths yet comprising only two percent of the population.

**Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Population Birth through 17 Years Compared to Fatalities, La Paz & Yuma Counties, 2005**



## CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or disease resulting in the death (e.g. motor vehicle crash, pneumonia). Manner of death explains how the death came about. Manners of death are categorized as natural, accident, homicide, suicide, or undetermined. In addition to reviewing medical examiner reports, Child Fatality Review Teams review records from hospitals, emergency departments, law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, and other sources. As a result of this comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, the team's determination of cause and manner sometimes differs from those recorded on the death certificate.

Natural deaths (e.g. medical conditions, congenital anomalies, prematurity) accounted for 63 percent (n=19) of all fatalities of children who resided in either La Paz or Yuma Counties. Overall, 17 percent of childhood deaths were due to an accident and 80 percent (n=4) of accidental deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes. Homicide accounted for 17 percent of the deaths of children who were residents of La Paz or Yuma Counties. Table 1 shows a cross-tabulation of the cause and manner of death for children who resided in either La Paz or Yuma Counties.

<b>Table 1. Cause And Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, La Paz and Yuma Counties, 2005</b>						
<b><u>Cause</u></b>	<b><u>Accident</u></b>	<b><u>Homicide</u></b>	<b><u>Natural</u></b>	<b><u>Suicide</u></b>	<b><u>Undetermined</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Medical*</b>			11			11
<b>Prematurity</b>			7			7
<b>MVC</b>	4					4
<b>Suffocation</b>		2				2
<b>Firearm Injury</b>		1		1		2
<b>Blunt Force Trauma</b>		1				1
<b>Drowning</b>	1					1
<b>SIDS</b>			1			1
<b>Strangulation</b>		1				1
<b>Total</b>	5	5	19	1	0	30
<b>Percent of Total</b>	17%	17%	63%	3%	0%	
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity						

## **PREVENTABILITY**

During reviews, teams examine the circumstances surrounding the death and identify factors that may have contributed to the death. Part of this review includes a 34-item checklist of contributing factors. After reviewing the contributing factors, the team determines whether the death was preventable.

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if an individual or the community could reasonably have done something that would have changed the circumstances that led to the child's death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that nine (30 percent) of the deaths of children who resided in La Paz or Yuma Counties were preventable in 2005.

Existence of a contributing factor did not necessarily result in the determination that a death was preventable. Thirty-seven percent of all deaths (n=11) had at least one contributing factor noted. Table 2 shows the top contributing factors for the deaths of resident children of La Paz or Yuma Counties in 2005, and the number of deaths that had the contributing factor noted.

<b>Table 2. Top Contributing Factors to Child Fatalities, Birth through 17 Years, La Paz and Yuma Counties, 2005</b>	
<b><u>Factor</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Driving at Excessive Speed</b>	4
<b>Lack of Supervision</b>	3
<b>Lack of Vehicle Restraint</b>	3
<b>Drugs/Alcohol</b>	3
<b>Lack of Parenting Skills</b>	3

## LA PAZ AND YUMA COUNTY CHILD FATALITIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section will compare the deaths of children who resided in La Paz or Yuma Counties to the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. In 2005, 30 children who were residents of La Paz or Yuma Counties died, and 1,043 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Child Fatality Review Teams found that La Paz and Yuma Counties had a smaller percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties in Arizona. Overall, 30 percent of La Paz and Yuma County deaths were preventable (n=9), compared to 33 percent of deaths in the remaining counties (n=342).

Table 3 provides a comparison of the top causes of childhood death for La Paz and Yuma Counties to the rest of Arizona. Medical causes of death were the leading causes for La Paz and Yuma Counties as well as for the remainder of Arizona.

<b>Table 3. Leading Causes of Death, Birth through 17 Years, La Paz and Yuma Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
<u>La Paz &amp; Yuma Counties (n=30)</u>		<u>Arizona, excluding La Paz &amp; Yuma Counties (n=1,043)</u>	
<u>Cause</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Medical*	37%	Medical*	44%
Prematurity	23%	Prematurity	26%
MVC	13%	MVC	10%
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity			

Table 4 compares the manner of childhood deaths for residents of La Paz or Yuma Counties to other Arizona counties. The leading manner of death was natural, accounting for over half of childhood deaths for La Paz and Yuma Counties and in the rest of Arizona, followed by accidental deaths. This comparison reveals that a larger percentage of childhood deaths were due to homicides for La Paz and Yuma Counties (17 percent) than in the remainder of Arizona.

<b>Table 4. Leading Manners of Death, Birth through 17 Years, La Paz and Yuma Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
<u>La Paz &amp; Yuma Counties (n=30)</u>		<u>Arizona, excluding La Paz &amp; Yuma Counties (n=1,043)</u>	
<u>Manner</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Manner</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Natural	63%	Natural	69%
Accident	17%	Accident	20%
Homicide	17%	Homicide	5%
Suicide	3%	Suicide	3%
Undetermined	0%	Undetermined	3%

Figure 3 compares the age distribution of childhood deaths who were residents of La Paz or Yuma Counties to childhood deaths for residents of the rest of Arizona. La Paz and Yuma Counties had a higher proportion of deaths among children five through fourteen years old, and a lower proportion of deaths occurring to children in all other age groups.

**Figure 3. Percent of Fatalities by Age Group, Birth through 17 Years, La Paz & Yuma Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005**

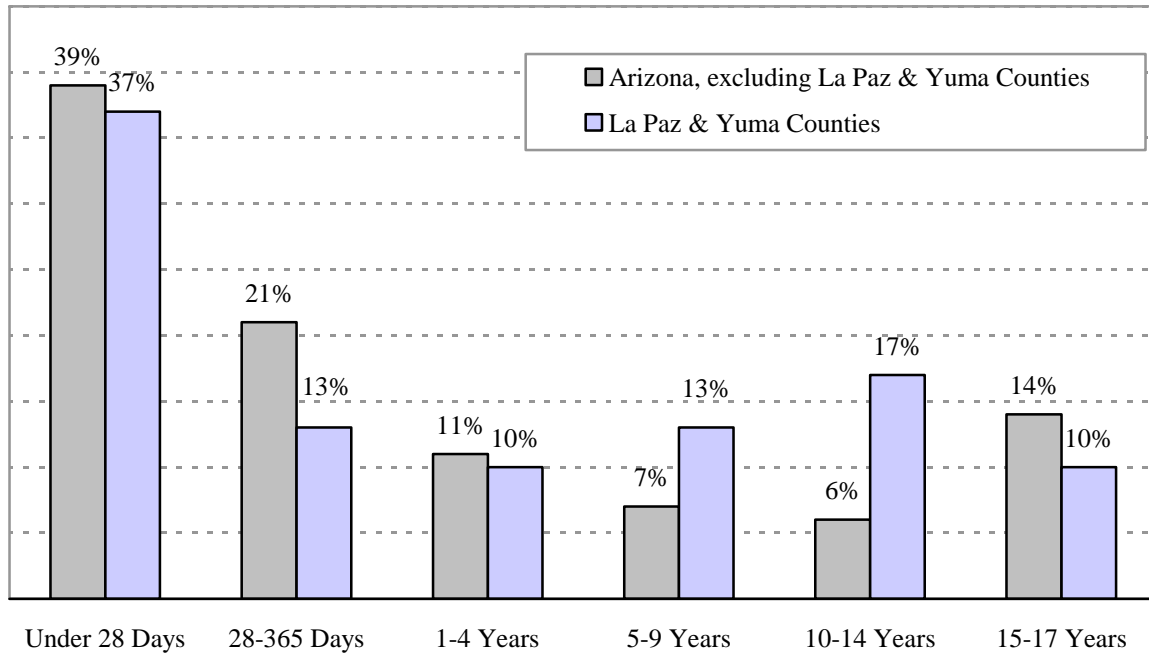


Figure 4 shows a comparison of childhood deaths by gender of La Paz and Yuma County residents with other counties in Arizona. The gender distribution of childhood deaths was similar for La Paz and Yuma Counties and the rest of Arizona.

**Figure 4. Percent of Fatalities by Gender, Birth through 17 Years, La Paz & Yuma Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005**

